

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising the steps of:

~~utilizing a general purpose computer for network route control; said utilizing further comprising:~~

establishing a connection between said a multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer and an arrangement for linking said computer to multiple at least a first and a second internet service providers (ISPs) provider (ISP);

utilizing one or more of active and passive measuring of relevant performance and availability metrics of said links to the at least first and the second ISP at said multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer; and

utilizing the multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer for performing network route control functions, said control functions comprising making a routing control decision at said multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer prior to sending a packet comprising network traffic;

wherein said multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer makes the routing control decision to direct the packet to an outgoing link to one of the first ISP and the second ISP based upon said relevant performance and availability metrics; and

wherein the multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer is configured to perform the control functions without external network appliances and without a dedicated route control device.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein said connection is accomplished through Multi-protocol Label Switching (MPLS) switched paths; and wherein the multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer sends packets labeled with one of a first label corresponding to a first switched path and a second label corresponding to a second switched path.

3. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein said connection is accomplished through Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) tunnels; and wherein the multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer sends packets with VLAN identifiers specifying a specific IP link on which the packets should be forwarded.

4. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein said connection is accomplished using Internet protocol (IP)-level tunnels; and wherein the IP-level tunnels are assigned to different virtual interfaces on the multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer, each virtual interface corresponding to a different ISP link.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relevant performance and availability ~~metric is metrics comprise~~ network delay.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relevant performance and availability ~~metric is metrics comprise~~ network loss.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relevant performance and availability ~~metric is metrics comprise~~ network throughput.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the relevant performance and availability ~~metric is metrics comprise~~ application-layer response time.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of measuring relevant performance and availability metrics comprises making passive measurements, wherein the general purpose computer utilizes applications running on the general purpose computer to measure the relevant performance metrics in an application-specific manner.

10. – 18. **(Cancelled)**

19. **(Currently Amended)** A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps comprising:

~~utilizing a general purpose computer for network route control; said utilizing further comprising:~~

establishing a connection between ~~said~~ a multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer and an arrangement for linking said computer to ~~multiple at least a first and a second~~ internet service providers (ISPs) provider (ISP);

utilizing one or more of active and passive measuring of relevant performance and availability metrics of ~~said~~ links to the at least first and the second ISP at said multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer; and

utilizing the multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer for performing network route control functions, said control functions comprising making a routing control decision at said multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer prior to sending a packet comprising network traffic;

wherein said multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer makes the routing control decision to direct the packet to an outgoing link to one of the first ISP and the second ISP based upon said relevant performance and availability metrics; and

wherein the multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer is configured to perform the control functions without external network appliances and without a dedicated route control device.

20. **(Cancelled)**

21. **(New)** A multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer comprising:

a processor; and

a program storage device tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable to perform:

establishing a connection between the multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer and at least a first and a second internet service provider (ISP);

utilizing one or more of active and passive measuring of relevant performance and availability metrics of links to the at least first and the second ISP; and

performing network route control functions, said control functions comprising making a routing control decision prior to sending a packet comprising network traffic;

wherein said multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer is configured to make the routing control decision to direct the packet to an outgoing link to one of the first ISP and the second ISP based upon said relevant performance and availability metrics; and

wherein the multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer is configured to perform the control functions without external network appliances and without a dedicated route control device.

22. (New) The multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer according to Claim 21, wherein the multi-homed network-connected general purpose

computer is configured to send packets labeled with one of a first and a second label corresponding to one of a first and a second Multi-protocol Label Switching (MPLS) switched paths in an application specific manner based on the relevant performance and availability metrics.

23. (New) The multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer according to Claim 21, wherein the multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer is configured to send packets with Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) identifiers specifying a specific IP link on which packets should be forwarded in an application specific manner based on the relevant performance and availability metrics.

24. (New) The multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer according to Claim 21, wherein the multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer is configured with internet protocol (IP)-level tunnels assigned to different virtual interfaces on the multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer, each virtual interface corresponding to a different ISP link.

25. (New) The multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer according to Claim 21, wherein the relevant performance metrics comprise network delay.

26. (New) The multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer according to Claim 21, wherein the relevant performance metrics comprise network loss.

27. (New) The multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer according to Claim 21, wherein the relevant performance metrics comprise network throughput.

28. (New) The multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer according to Claim 21, wherein the relevant performance metrics comprise application-layer response time.

29. (New) The multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer according to Claim 21, wherein the multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer is configured to make passive measurements utilizing applications running on the multi-homed network-connected general purpose computer to measure at least one relevant performance metric in an application-specific manner.